

INFORMATION REPORT

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CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 6 NOV 50

SUBJECT Ministry of National Defense, Departments II and VIII

NO. OF PAGES 4

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCS. 25X1A
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1. Department II of the Ministry of National Defense (MNO) is responsible for the control of army materiel. The organization of this department is as follows:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| a. Section 1 | Personnel |
| b. Section 2 | General Armament Materiel Procurement. This section places orders with the individual factories for artillery equipment and ammunition, vehicles, infantry equipment, chemical warfare weapons, mines, grenades, and pyrotechnical equipment. In addition, it collaborates with Section 1 of the General Staff, with Department VIII of the MNO, and with the Military Technical Institute (VTU) in the inspection and control of the production of these items and in the control of war materiel in storage. |
| c. Section 3 | Ammunition of all kinds. |
| d. Section 4 | Small arms. |
| e. Section 5 | Optical materiel, including optical measuring and aiming instruments, telemeters, artillery telescopes, binoculars and compasses. |
| f. Section 6 | Pay office, responsible for the settlement of accounts with the factories producing materiel for this department. |
| g. Section 7 | Budget office. |
| h. Section 8 | Assembly line production (sbornicova vyroba). This section controls assembly line production, especially of ammunition and controls the stores of armaments in the factories. |

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- 2 -

2. Armaments depots in the following locations are under the control of Department II:

Prague-Hostivice, the largest depot for ammunition and pyrotechnical equipment in Czechoslovakia

Josefov (O51/G82)

Terezin (N51/F53)

Josefov II

Rudolfov near Pisek

Havlickuv Brod

Bohuslavice (P50/O40)

Chotebor

Olomouc-Bystrovany

Pilsen-Nyrany-Bolevec

Hodonin

Trencin

Leopoldov (P49/T43)

Zilina

Ruzomberok

3. The following armaments plants are under the control of Department II:

Policka Munitions Plant, under the control of Ing. General Kolomaznik.

Slovenske Kostolany Munitions Factory near Zilina, the first Czech plant to manufacture such war gasses as yperite and lewisite. This plant was rebuilt in 1948 and 1949 and is under the control of Ing. General Mares.

Semtin Munitions Plant, which produces light and heavy machine guns.

Semtin Explosives Plant.

Nyrany Munitions Plant, which produces artillery ammunition and mines.

Skoda testing grounds for artillery weapons and ammunition at Bolevec, and for pyrotechnical equipment at Hostivice.

4. In September 1948, Department VIII of the MNO was established to organize and control Czech war industries. It is independent of Department VI of the General Staff which was set up in 1947 for a similar purpose. Also in 1948 a Secretariat General of State Defense was organized and directed by General J. Cizek, army representative in the State Research Council. His deputy is Lt. Colonel J. Pavlik, a member of the OZ (military counter-intelligence, formerly the OBZ) industrial group. At the present time Department VIII consists of 45 officers, mostly specialists of the Technical Ordnance Corps. Leading personnel of the department are as follows:

Department Chief: Lt. Colonel of the General Staff Kalla, succeeding General Kasalicky, who was dismissed in September 1949 for political unreliability.

Deputy Chief: Colonel Dittrich, a member of the OZ, succeeding Colonel Brada.*

Chief of the Mines and Steelworks Section: Lt. Colonel V. Prymek, a member of the OZ, succeeding Lt. Colonel S. Zeman, purged with other former prisoners in German concentration camps.

Chief of the Planning and Production Section: Major Vratislav Skorepa, replacing Captain Vokoun.

Chief of the Chemical Industry Section: Staff Captain Toms, replacing Lt. Colonel Ing. Bejcek.

Chief of the Textile Section: Staff Captain Bohacek, replacing Captain Madry.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A

- 3 -

Chief of the Small Arms Section: Captain vanek, succeeding Captain V. Zeman.

Chief of the Personnel Section: Staff Captain Jaroslav Kratochvil, replacing Lt. Colonel Ing. Prenosil, purged with all other officers of the Czech Army of the West.

Liaison Officer to the OZ Industrial Group: Lt. Colonel Brandys.

Chief of the OZ Industrial Group in Department VIII: Lt. Colonel of the General Staff J. Zadina.

5. Department VIII has the following functions:

- a. Inspection and control of all factories and other installations important to national defense.
- b. Planning of the entire production of the war industry.
- c. Research for various war industries.
- d. Control of all Czech exports.
- e. Control of permission to foreigners to enter Czech plants considered important to national defense. The Ministry of Interior is authorized to control the entrance of Czech citizens into such factories.
- f. Cooperation with the 13 kraj (district) army commands in the control of war industries in each kraj.

6. Department VIII has controlling officers, who are employed as civilian workers, in the following plants;

Skoda Works in Pilsen
 Skoda Works in Adamov (P50/N41)
 Skoda Works in Hradec Kralove
 Vitkovice Ironworks
 Trinec Ironworks
 Bohumin Wire Cable Plant
 Poldi Works in Kladno
 Konev Ironworks in Kladno
 CKD Plant in Prague-Vysocany
 Mlada Boleslav Automobile Plant
 Optikotechna Plant in Prerov
 Somet Plant in Trnovany
 Stalin Works in Horni Litvinov
 Ceskoslovenske Zbrojovka (CZ) Armament Works in Brno-Zidenice
 CZ Armament Works in Strakonice
 CZ Armament Works in Vsetin
 Usti nad Labem Chemical Plant
 Rudy Letov Plant in Prague-Letnany
 Chocen Aircraft Plant (formerly Ing. Mraz Plant)
 Novaky War Gas Plant

7. This department asked the Ministry of Foreign Trade to establish in foreign countries a net of representatives of Kovo National Enterprise to aid in the procurement of necessary imports of raw materials.** Similar representatives are also being sent abroad by Centrotex and Chemapol. Representatives are selected by a special commission of the Ministry of Foreign Trade headed by Dr. Hruza and J. Hajek on the recommendation of the local Communist Party organization. Political reliability of each man must be attested to by the Department of Political Intelligence of the Ministry of Interior. To train these men, who may have no background fitting them for the task of foreign representative, employees are sent to a one-year course of instruction at a school in Prague-Letna operated by the Ministry of Foreign Trade. In addition to procuring raw materials for Czech industries, these representatives are instructed to supply Kovo with information on the general economic situation in the country to which they are sent, to inform the Czech government on the condition and capacity of

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25X1A

- 4 -

port installations, condition of the railroads, political opinion, the possibilities of Communist activity, and items of military interest. They are responsible for the sale of the products of the Czech machine industry, especially in countries of the dollar and sterling areas, for the purchase of raw materials on the black market if they are not available otherwise and, as indicated above, for collecting economic and political intelligence. At present, Kovo agents are established in Switzerland, Sweden, India, France, Denmark and Norway. Attempts are being made to establish representatives in Belgium, Italy and the Netherlands.

8. Export deliveries by plants of the Czech heavy industry are very slow. During the first three months of 1950, for example, orders by Switzerland have been fulfilled only to 30 percent, by Sweden to 45 percent, and by Norway and India to 60 percent. The reasons for the inability to fulfill such orders include an extreme shortage in Czech industries of iron alloys such as ferromanganese and ferrosilicon and such non-ferrous metals as chrome, vanadium, nickel and copper. Czechoslovakia is attempting to buy these materials on the black market in Belgium via Sweden. In accordance with the Czech-Swedish trade agreement, Sweden is delivering 750,000 to 1,000,000 tons of high-grade iron ore, amounting to 70 percent of Czech requirements. Nearly 30 percent of the iron ore required for the Czech machine industry is delivered by the USSR with only a minor amount of inferior ore coming from Czech mines in the vicinity of Nucice (N51/167). In May 1950 a barter trade agreement was signed between Czechoslovakia and Italy under which Italy provides the Czech rubber industry with sulphur in return for naphthalene. The annual export capacity of the Czech machine industry increased from about one billion kcs. in 1948 to between one and two billion kcs. by the beginning of 1950. Of this total, 30 percent is exported to the USSR, 20 percent to Poland, Bulgarian, Hungary and Rumania; of the remainder, 170,000,000 kcs. is exported to Switzerland, 104,000,000 kcs. to Sweden, 20,000,000 kcs. each to Norway and Denmark and 5,000,000 kcs. to Finland. Export to countries of the sterling and dollar area are very small.

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[REDACTED] This name is also spelled Ditrich in this report.

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